

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the claims have been amended to better define the invention. New claims 22-26 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed, for example, in the specification on page 4.

The drawings stand objected to because the reference character "20" has been used to designate both T-shaped slots and straight slots. The drawings and the specification have been amended such that straight slots are now designated as "20". Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Figs. 9-17 stand objected to because foldlines 21 were not shown. The drawings have been amended for the sake of consistency to show the foldlines 21 in all the views. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

The specification stands objected to for the description of Figs. 10-22 referring to photographs. The original drawings were copies of photographs, but these copies of photographs have been replaced with line drawings. Therefore, Applicants have made appropriate correction to the description of the figures. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zriny (US 5,524,816).

Zriny discloses a tri-fold storage box which may enable a user to convert available storage space underneath a bed into usable storage. Zriny does not disclose a handle on the lid.

Claim 20 as amended recites "a handle on the lid". For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 20 be withdrawn.

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Billstein (US 1,149,891).

Billstein discloses a display box. The display box of Billstein does not include a handle on the lid.

Claims 20 as amended, and claim 21 which depends from claim 20, recite "a handle on the lid". For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 20 and 21 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuehlhorn (US 4,088,262) or Ring (US 5,642,833).

Kuehlhorn discloses a carton for articles, such as bottles, of various sizes. The carton is designed to provide a plurality of individual article-holding internal partitions.

Claims 1 and 20 as amended, and dependent claims 2, 8, 10 and 21, recite a “first container having a tab with a slot” and a handle on a lid, where “the handle includes a tab positionable to fit into the slot of the first container to secure the lid to the first container”. Conversely, the carton of Kuehlhorn does not include such a handle. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 20 and 21 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billstein in view of Powell (US 1,902,262).

Powell discloses a foldable display carton. The carton includes a foldable lid. Neither Powell nor Billstein, described above, alone or in combination, disclose a handle on a lid.

Claim 1 as amended, and dependent claims 9 and 10, recite “a handle on the lid”. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ring (US 5,642,833) in view of Tracy (US 3,021,976) or Boster (US 3,307,602).

Ring, Tracy and Boster disclose containers. Ring discloses a composite package for scoopable products. Tracy discloses a tin can type container. Boster discloses a re-useable food container with a re-sealable lid. Neither Ring, Tracy nor Boster, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a “first container having a tab with a slot” and a handle on a lid, where “the handle includes a tab positionable to fit into the slot of the first container to secure the lid to the first container”, as recited in claim 1 as amended. Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 3-5 be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ring in view of Bahler (US 3,871,568).

Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 which, as amended, recites a “first container having a tab with a slot” and a handle on a lid, where “the handle includes

a tab positionable to fit into the slot of the first container to secure the lid to the first container". Neither Ring, described above, nor Bahler, which related to a plastic container with a generally flat lid, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed handle on the lid. For at least this reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 6 and 7 be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Vincent J. Gnoffo
Registration No. 44,714
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200